

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00  
NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 OES-07  
OMB-01 PA-01 L-03 H-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 /065 W  
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R 231553Z FEB 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6336  
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC  
DEA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 02864

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: SNAR, TY  
SUBJECT: TURKISH NARCOTICS MATTERS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BOURNE  
DEA FOR BENSINGER  
FROM FALCO

1. SUMMARY: US DELEGATES TO THE CND HAVE HAD SEVERAL  
SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR TURKISH COUNTERPARTS.  
IN THESE TALKS THE TURKS HAVE PURSUED THREE GENERAL  
THEMES: (1) PRESENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS SURROUNDING  
TURKEY'S POPPY STRAW CROP STEM FROM MEASURES ORIGINALLY  
INITIATED TO PLEASE THE US, AND THAT WE SHOULD, THERE-  
FORE, BE WILLING TO HELP TURKEY OVERCOME ITS DIFFICULTIES;  
(2) TURKEY WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO  
DIVERSION FROM ITS LICIT PRODUCTION; AND, (3) THE  
GOT IS INCREASINGLY UPSET OVER DEA'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS  
ABOUT TURKISH HEROIN TRAFFIC. END SUMMARY.

2. POINTING OUT THAT TURKEY ADOPTED THE STRAW SYSTEM TO  
PREVENT ILLICIT DIVERSION AT URGING OF THE US AND UN,  
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TURKISH DELEGATES COMPLAINED THAT FINANCIAL COSTS OF  
MANAGING AN EFFECTIVE CONTROL SYSTEM ARE CONSIDERABLE.  
ALTHOUGH WILLING TO RECOGNIZE TURKEY'S INTERNATIONAL  
RESPONSIBILITIES TO MAINTAIN SUCH A SYSTEM, THE  
TURKISH DELEGATES INSIST THEIR COUNTRY CANNOT BE  
EXPECTED TO BEAR THE FULL COST ALONE. CITING PROBLEMS  
IN SELLING TURKEY'S POPPY STRAW STOCKS ABROAD, THE TURKS

ASKED THAT WE DISCOURAGE US PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES FROM BUYING SEIZED OPIUM GUM STOCKS, A PRACTICE WHICH THEY SAY UNDERCUTS POTENTIAL TURKISH STRAW SALES. THEY ALSO ASKED THAT WE ENCOURAGE AMERICAN FIRMS TO PURCHASE MORE TURKISH STRAW, AND SEEMED PLEASED THAT PENICK REPRESENTATIVES WERE IN GENEVA TO DISCUSS STRAW PURCHASES FOR PROCESSING IN THAT FIRM'S NEW JERSEY FACILITY. ANOTHER SPECIFIC REQUEST WAS FOR US TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO TURKISH CUSTOMS IN ORDER TO HELP REDUCE TURKEY'S ROLE AS A DRUG TRANSIT COUNTRY. THE TURKISH DELEGATION DISCUSSED SUCH TRAINING AT LENGTH WITH US CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER ROBERT CHASEN.

3. DISCUSSIONS WITH NUMAN BAYCIN, HEAD OF TMO'S OPIUM DIVISION, HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY FRANK AND ENCOURAGING. BAYCIN REPORTED THAT SALES TO VFP, MERCK, AND HUNGARY (AT ABOUT \$925 PER TON) HAVE REDUCED TURKEY'S STRAW STOCKS TO 27,000 TONS, OF WHICH TMO HOPES TO SELL ANOTHER 7,000 BEFORE THE 1978 CROP IS HARVESTED. THE REMAINING 20,000 TONS ARE SLATED TO BECOME A BUFFER STOCK RESERVED FOR THE BOLVADIN PROCESSING PLANT, WHICH BAYCIN SAYS IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL IN JANUARY, 1979, WITH A 20,000 TON ANNUAL STRAW CAPACITY.

4. BAYCIN SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT MOST OF THE 1978 STRAW CROP WOULD BE PROCESSED BY THE BOLVADIN PLANT  
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DURING 1979. WHILE NOT COMMITTING HIMSELF TO A SPECIFIC ESTIMATE, BAYCIN PREDICTED THAT THE 15-20 PERCENT WINTER KILL THUS FAR MEANS THIS YEAR'S STRAW CROP WILL BE NO LARGER THAN THAT OF 1977. BAYCIN'S ESTIMATE INCLUDED PROJECTIONS OF THE SPRING PLANTING, WHICH HE SAID WOULD MOST PROBABLY BE PERMITTED.

5. EVEN AFTER THE BOLVADIN FACILITY BECOMES FULLY OPERATIONAL, 20,000 TONS OF STRAW WILL BE STORED AS A RESERVE IN CASE FUTURE CROPS CANNOT MEET THE PLANT'S CAPACITY. THE GOT WILL ATTEMPT TO SELL ANY SURPLUS PRODUCTION IN STRAW FORM, AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT COMPETE WITH BOLVADIN'S CONCENTRATE OUTPUT. ACCORDING TO BAYCIN, TMO HAS PROPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT AMOUNTS EXCEEDING BOLVADIN'S 20,000 TONS YEARLY CAPACITY, AND WHICH CANNOT BE SOLD, SHOULD BE DESTROYED AFTER PURCHASE FROM THE FARMERS. HE BELIEVES DESTRUCTION IS A MORE LIKELY SOLUTION TO OVER-PRODUCTION THAN ARE PROSPECTS OF FURTHER MAJOR LIMITING OF CROP LICENSING.

6. INVARIABLY, THE TURKISH REPRESENTATIVES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN OVER WHAT THEY VIEW AS HOSTILE

AND UNSUBSTANTIATED PUBLICITY BY DEA ABOUT TURKISH  
HEROIN TRAFFICKING. THE TURKS INSIST THAT TURKEY IS A  
TRANSIT COUNTRY, AND THAT IT IS NOT A SOURCE OF ILLICIT  
OPIUM OR A SITE FOR HEROIN LABORATORIES. THEIR  
DELEGATION RECOGNIZES SOME TURKISH NATIONALS ARE  
INVOLVED AS DRUG COURIERS INTO CENTRAL EUROPE. THEY  
POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, IN THEIR FORMAL CND STATEMENT  
THAT, WHILE THE NUMBER OF TURKS INVOLVED MIGHT SEEM  
LARGE, THE QUANTITIES OF DRUGS CARRIED BY THEM ARE  
QUITE SMALL COMPARED TO AMOUNTS CARRIED BY OTHER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 02864

WHITE HOUSE FOR BOURNE  
DEA FOR BENSINGER  
FROM FALCO

NATIONALS. ACCORDING TO THE TURKISH CND DELEGATES,  
DESPITE A LACK OF EVIDENCE, DEA CONTINUES TO MAKE PUBLIC  
AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS BRANDING TURKEY AS A MAJOR SOURCE  
OF ILLICIT OPIATES. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE TURKS ARE  
UPSET OVER WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE DEA ACTIVITIES,  
AND THAT THEY ARE QUESTIONING WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT  
OR DEA SPEAKS FOR THE USG ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS  
MATTERS. I WILL OF COURSE AGAIN DISCUSS TURKISH  
SENSITIVITIES WITH DEA ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER UPON MY  
RETURN TO WASHINGTON. MEANWHILE, I HAVE BEEN INFORMED  
BY THE TURKISH CND DELEGATION THAT THE GOT HAS  
DECIDED TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH OUR AMBASSADOR IN  
ANKARA. VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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